

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

**Listing of claims:**

1 (Currently Amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:

an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data from an input apparatus connected thereto, and converts said analog audio data to digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data therefrom;

~~a plurality of decompression firmwares stored in ROM;~~

a playback/recording processing section ~~having a compression section~~ which compresses said digital audio data output from said audio input processing section and stores ~~into a RAM~~ said compressed digital audio data in a RAM, and further ~~and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data, and having an expansion section which decompresses said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM by using a decompression firmware selected from among said plurality of decompression firmwares based on the attribution data;~~

an audio output processing section, which ~~receives decompressed digital audio data~~, converts ~~said decompressed digital audio data~~ output from said audio input processing section or digital audio data expanded by said playback/recording processing section to analog audio data, and outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus which is connected to said audio output processing section;

an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an external recording medium, and reads

22 out compressed digital audio data from said external recording medium, and  
23 stores said readout data into said RAM;

24 a general-purpose interface section which includes which transfers  
25 digital audio data and authorization data to an external apparatus and receives  
26 digital audio data and authorization data thereof from an external apparatus;

27 a protection processing section which performs protection processing  
28 of said digital audio data, said protection processing section having an  
29 encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data, a decryption section  
30 which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data generation  
31 section which generates authorization data including an individual identifier  
32 and a decryption key that are sent to said external apparatus connected to said  
33 general-purpose interface section, an authorization data verification section  
34 which compares said individual identifier included in said authorization data  
35 from the external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface  
36 section with an individual identifier list stored in a ROM and checks  
37 properness of a transmitting party;

38 a ROM into which software used in processing in said  
39 playback/recording processing section and said protection processing section  
40 are stored as firmware, and said individual identifier and said decryption key  
41 used by said protection processing section are stored;

42 a RAM which stores the compressed digital audio data output from  
43 said compressed digital audio data or read out from said external recording  
44 circuit section or input to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and  
45 software read out from said ROM;

46 an expanded RAM into which digital audio data are stored in a case in  
47 which it is not possible to store digital audio data in said RAM; and

48 a controller which controls the audio input processing section, the  
49 playback/recording processing section, the audio output section, the external

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50       recording circuit section, the general-purpose interface circuit section, the  
51       protection processing section, the ROM, the RAM, and the expanded RAM,  
52       and selects appropriate processing files to process said digital audio data from  
53       among files stored in the ROM, and stores said selected files in the RAM,  
54       before said playback/recording processing section performs compression,  
55       expansion, encryption, and decryption of the digital audio data.

Claims 2-5. Canceled

1       Claim 6 (currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus  
2       according to claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein said further comprising an authorization data  
3       writing section which writes said authorization data within a header  
4       information section of said digital audio data.

Claim 7. Canceled

1       Claim 8 (new). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1  
2       wherein said interfaces of said general-purpose interface circuit section are  
3       selected from the group consisting of USB, IEEE1394, wireless LAN, and  
4       Home RF.

1       Claim 9 (new). A playback/recording method of digital audio data using an  
2       audio playback/recording apparatus having a playback/recording processing  
3       section, an audio output processing section, an external recording circuit  
4       section, a general-purpose interface circuit section, a protection processing  
5       section, a ROM, a RAM, and an expanded RAM, said method comprising:

6               A) in a case in which input data input to the audio playback/recording  
7       apparatus are played back and recorded on an external recording medium,

8                   said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from an  
9                   input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog audio data to  
10                  digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the audio output  
11                  processing section and playback/recording processing section,

12                  said audio output processing section converts said received digital  
13                  audio data to analog audio data and playbacks said converted analog audio  
14                  data,

15                  said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital  
16                  audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and  
17                  after said audio output processing section playbacks said digital audio  
18                  data, said external recording circuit section records compressed digital audio  
19                  data stored in said RAM into an external recording medium;

20                  B) in a case in which input data input to the audio playback/recording  
21                  apparatus are recorded on an external recording medium,

22                  said audio input processing section receives analog audio data from an  
23                  input apparatus connected thereto and converts said analog data audio data to  
24                  digital audio data and outputs said digital audio data to the playback/recording  
25                  processing section,

26                  said playback/recording processing section compresses said digital  
27                  audio data and stores said compressed digital audio data in said RAM, and  
28                  said external recording circuit section records compressed digital audio  
29                  data stored in said RAM on the external recording medium;

30                  C) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording medium  
31                  are playbaced,

32                  said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital  
33                  audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout data  
34                  into said RAM,

35                   said playback/recording processing section decompresses said  
36 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, and  
37                   said audio output processing section converts said decompressed  
38 digital audio data to analog audio data and outputs said converted analog data  
39 to an output apparatus and playbacks said analog audio data;

40                   D) in a case in which recorded data on an external recording medium  
41 are transferred to an external apparatus,

42                   said external recording circuit section reads out compressed digital  
43 audio data from the external recording medium and stores said readout data  
44 into said RAM,

45                   said protection processing section generates authorization data  
46 including an individual identifier and a decryption key so as to encrypt data  
47 and encrypts said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM, said  
48 general-purpose interface circuit section outputs said authorization data to said  
49 external apparatus, after that, outputs encrypted compressed digital audio data  
50 to said external apparatus; and

51                   E) in a case in which input data received from an external apparatus  
52 are recorded on an external recording medium,

53                   said general-purpose interface circuit section receives authorization  
54 data from the external apparatus,

55                   said protection processing section compares said individual identifier  
56 included in said authorization data from the external apparatus with an  
57 individual identifier list stored in the ROM and checks a properness of a  
58 transmitting party,

59                   said general-purpose interface circuit section receives encrypted  
60 compressed digital audio data from the external apparatus and stores them in  
61 the RAM,

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62                   said protection processing section decrypts encrypted compressed  
63                   digital audio data stored in the RAM by using the decryption key included in  
64                   the authorization data, and  
65                   said external recording circuit section records the compressed digital  
66                   audio data stored in the RAM into the external recording medium.